

## The Journey Continues

By Joe Biddle, AD4PZ - Editor



Well the journey continues and another GARZETTE makes its way fresh off the presses for your reading pleasure. As the new editor of the GARZETTE, I hope I can fulfill your expectations in what you see, read and have come to know as the GARZETTE. We've gotten used to reading numerous informative articles related to Amateur Radio in the GARZETTE, including Club and general ham community information. There has also been a good mix of witty sayings, quotations and helpful hints too.

Since I joined **GARS** we have had two excellent editors: Dean Matthews, AD4OD and Ike Chapman, KE4GYM. Those guys took the newsletter to a high level of excellence with their creative and imaginative styles. The GARZETTE has even earned national recognition occasionally in a publication for Amateur Radio Newsletter editors - (ARNS) The Amateur Radio News Service.

I am going to operate this newsletter more on a team approach. With the help of Beverly Bryant, KE4VDI as the Assistant

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## The President's Pen

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM



I don't know about you but I've really been looking forward to this issue of The GARZETTE. Joe Biddle, AD4PZ has stepped forward and volunteered to serve as Newsletter Editor and this is his first issue. I'm really excited about Joe taking over as editor and look for great things in our newsletter. I hope that each and every one of you will give Joe the same kind of support that I received when I was serving as editor. Joe will be working with Beverly Bryant, KE4VDI who has volunteered to serve as Assistant Newsletter Editor. There's still room for other people to work on this team, as reporters, or in other functions that you can help Joe and Bev with, such as distribution, editing, advertising sales, etc. We can all get involved by writing an arti-

cle. It's not a difficult thing to do and we all have something that we can write about that relates to amateur radio. Just give a look through some of the back issues to see what others have done and that should give you some ideas.

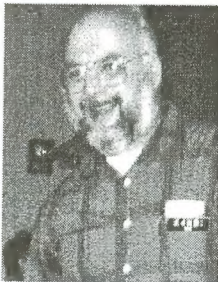
A big tip of the **GARS** hat to Johnny Fearon, W4WKP for our program at the April meeting. If you weren't one of the 70 or so people in attendance you really missed a great program. Bob Allphin, K4UEE was the speaker and he gave a presentation on the recent Heard Island DX-expedition. Bob showed a videotape, some slides, and had a great display of items from the trip. Johnny tells me that Frank Daniels, the Gwinnett County Emergency

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## GARS Ham Of The Month Mike Swiderski, K4HBI

By Karl Phillips, N4JON

This month's ham of the month is Mike Swiderski - K4HBI. Mike was born and grew up in Baltimore, Maryland. He attended grammar, junior high and high school there and later attended Community College of Baltimore. Mike became interested in amateur radio in junior high



while experimenting with assembling and taking apart crystal radios. In 1963 Mike passed his novice test and became KN3UHZ (Ultra-high zombie!). He soon passed his tech test and the FCC dropped the "N" and he was K3UHZ. His first rig was

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## THE GARZETTE

**THE GARZETTE** is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, submit items in ASCII text format or Microsoft Word format by email to ad4pz@aol.com or by posting a private message on the SA BBS (770) 903-6789, to Joe Biddle in the *GARS* conference. Use the Save Attached command and mark the security to receiver only. Art can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted on an IBM formatted disk or via email as an unencoded file attachment.

Contact the editor for other format compatibility or other means of transfer.

**Deadline for submissions is the first of each month.**

**GARZETTE Editor**

Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

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**THE GARZETTE** is created on a P5-133 MHz computer using Microsoft Publisher 97 and Microsoft Word V7.0 running Windows 95.

Thanks to Art Smith, KE4MX for providing the printing services each month. Rita Biddle, KE4WVV gets the stamps and makes sure the newsletter gets to the post office each month.

My thanks to all of them for their help in producing **THE GARZETTE**.

All correspondence relating to articles posted in **THE GARZETTE** or for information concerning advertisement rates for **THE GARZETTE** should be directed to the following address:

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

P.O. Box 88

Lilburn, GA 30226

Attn: Newsletter Editor

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♦♦♦

## ...The Journey Continues

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Newsletter editor, I'll get news material in a ready to paste format. This means of those stories submitted – spelling, grammar, standard fonts/pitch sizes and other typical Nuances associated to the **GARZETTE** style, will have already been done. Also there will be a few 'Roving Reporters' who will take occasional assignments to come up with local and/or nationally newsworthy articles for the reading membership.

With those folks mentioned helping and those who regularly contribute material, should make it much easier to put the newsletter together and keep it interesting and informative.

But since this newsletter belongs to the **GARS** members...

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### "We need your Stories and Articles"

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I would encourage any of you to submit articles of your own to be published. You may say I don't have anything to offer that would be

'newsworthy' or interesting. Well, I invite you to call me and discuss them. I'll bet your ideas for an article has much more merit than you might think.

Whether you are a ham or not, or you have talked to someone about amateur radio, you probably have something to offer. You may even have experience, or have had an experience with a related technology that folks would find interesting. In any case, there are methods of presentation too that can help. For example: You may be a homemaker once asked to try out some new satellite TV reception thing-a-ma-jig. OR, you could be a **Domestic Engineer in charge of a Satellite Beta Testing program.**

Hmmm...the possibilities!

We welcome any ideas, comments and suggestions that you have for the betterment of the **GARZETTE**. Please direct any articles or other correspondence to the **GARS** post office box in Lilburn or Email to: ad4pz@aol.com Or give me a call at 770-963-4316. I look forward to hearing from you.

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## The ARRL Letter Vol. 16, No. 16 April 18, 1997 RADIO SHACK TAKES HTX-204 DUAL-BAND HT OFF THE MARKET

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Radio Shack notified its stores April 17 that it's immediately recalling unsold stocks of its new HTX-204 dual-band handheld transceiver because of what a source at Radio Shack headquarters called "a regulatory compliance issue" involving the transceiver. Radio Shack said it plans to take the HTX-204 off the market and has no immediate plans

to offer another dual-band HT. The HTX-204 started showing up in the chain's 7000 retail stores about six weeks ago.

A Radio Shack official at the company's Ft Worth, Texas, headquarters said the company was concerned about the "potential for illegal use" of the HTX-204. He declined to be specific, but he did emphasize that the HTX-204 is perfectly legal for use on Amateur Radio frequencies.

Radio Shack expressed disappointment with the turn of events surrounding the HTX-204 and directed any questions to local Radio Shack retail stores.

♦♦♦



## Rookie Radio

By Carter Wood, KF4HLF

## TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Timing is everything - well usually. Sometimes it doesn't seem to be at that particular moment but then later it turns out to have been critical. Oh well.

The best time to get started in Ham radio was about forty years ago. It was a time of amazement, joy and wonder. Those guys made their own rigs out of strings and sealing wax and other magic stuff. They grew their own crystals from home brewed super saturated solutions. They all got one by one call signs, worked all counties on low power CW with keys fashioned from used clothes pins. We missed it all the way back then and we can never repay them for their work, ingenuity and perseverance.

But hey, the next best time to get started is - RIGHT NOW. No one can recapture the past, not even those with a double digit ARRL Life Member number. So lets get busy RIGHT NOW. Here's several reasons why today is almost as good.

- As much fun as it might have been to build things from scratch, the rigs are better now. When you build something for yourself you never know if the reason it doesn't work (they never do at first) is due to your construction or because of some design flaw. The new gear is factory built to tested specs and comes with a guarantee.
- When expressed in current dollars, the new equipment is less expensive. Heathkit made a pile of money in those early days because they bought up loads of surplus GI issue gear and marketed it. Now we have all the usual market forces working for the amateur enthusiast.
- All the new gear coming into the market helps push down the price of the previous vintages.

Remember - there are only two types of radio gear - 'state-of-the-art' and 'vintage'.

- It is much easier to get started. The tests are easier and code is not a prerequisite. Many people still think that it should be but then there is a lot of new stuff to learn too. The moon was out there in the 40's but no one could hit it and RS-12 was MIGHTY scarce back then. You can spend your time learning the things that help you.
- Finally, the solar cycle is not a myth (ground wave is). Right now is the start of a new period of increased propagation for all hams. Old Sol does not respect the date on your license. Every day the long distance coverage gets better.
- Best of all - many of the Old Man types are still around and are always eager to help a newbie. They have done it the hard way and some of their best fun now is helping us!



### GARS Membership

#### Factoid

by Jack Herndon, KS4LS

As of April 25, 1997 the GARS membership is comprised of the following:

8	Associate Members
58	Extra Class Members
59	Advance Class Members
27	General Class Members
39	Tech Plus Members
129	Technician Class

## Officers

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### DXCC Checker

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## ARES/ SkyWarn

By Lowry Rouse, KM4Z

First I want to thank ARES members for the support we received during our recent severe weather nets. Also thanks to Jeff (KD4GPI) for a great job being net control. All members are important whether you actually get involved in passing of information or just listen during these nets. Some of us will be heard more because of our ARES/SKYWARN responsibilities, but we are no more important or beneficial than any other member. So please don't feel like you're not needed or can't help. Gwinnett Co. ARES/SKYWARN needs you all to be successful.

On Thursday, April 24th, Jeff (KD4GPI), John (KE4KPV), Buddy (KE4YZS) and myself attended a class at the NWS (National Weather Service) in Peachtree City. Ed Ferguson, N4YTR taught the class and is the District Emergency Coordinator for the NWS. Ed's purpose in teaching the class was to familiarize the operators with the equipment and how to conduct themselves while in the NWS Emergency Operations Center. All of this happens to be in the cubicle where all of the ham equipment is located. The ham station is located in the same room where the meteorologists are and where the radar console resides too. Operators in the EOC get a birds-eye view of the NWS in action as it compiles data to be disseminated to the public.

The ham equipment is located in a spacious cubicle that is well lit and has UPS back-up power. The monitor shows radar images fed from the NWS to top things off! High frequencies such as: 2 meter FM, 2 meter packet (APRS), and 70cm bands can be operated from the NWS EOC. The antennas are located on a 40-foot tower. One of the main points Ed wanted us to remember was how to conduct ourselves while in the facility

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## ...GARS Ham Of The Month

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home-brew. He built a Knightkit Oceanhopper with plug in coils. His transmitter was built from 6J5 oscillators and a 807 final. The power supply had 83 tubes and before putting the rig on the air, these tubes had to heat up to a deep purple glow. Man, now that's hot!! This home-brew CW rig worked good on 40 meters and even better on his neighbors' TV. Mikes' dad had to limit his operation to when the neighbor was not watching TV. He was definitely more welcome on 40 meters!! His neighbor had an old Philco TV and Mike appeared on that TV via a second harmonic. Mike never achieved the certificate for W.A.N. (Worked All Neighbors). Hi! Hi! His antenna was an inverted Vee.

President Nixon called on Mike (not personally) in 1969. Mike joined the U.S. Army and was stationed in Chu Lai, Vietnam. While he wore many hats there he was chiefly a squad radioman carrying a PRC 25. I assume this is a handheld, though back then it was probably the size of a refrigerator.

After his tour of duty, Mike returned to Baltimore in 1970. In December of 1971 Mike and his family moved down here to Atlanta. The FCC changed his call sign from K3UHZ to K4HBI (Home Brew Inspector). I made those phonetics up, so don't blame Mike!

Mikes' primary station is now a Drake TR4. He had a TR3 (circa 1955). His TR4 has a remote VFO and tuner. He also has a HT-37 transmitter and a Hallicrafters SX-101A receiver, scope and D-104 microphone. He is currently "breathing new life" into a Heathkit DX-100 to put back on the air. Mike is more of a tinkerer than a talker and is really fond of the old equipment. His antenna system is a Mosley TA33 Jr. atop a 37 foot tower. On top of the Mosley he has a 440 quad. On top of that is an 11

element Cushcraft for 2 meters and above that is a Ringo Ranger. Gosh, Mikes' almost into the F layer before even transmitting!! He also has a G5RV, a 6 meter dipole and a trap vertical. He picked up a MFJ 6 meter rig at the Dalton Hamfest and has made several contacts since then.

Mike likes to ragchew more than contest and likes to work DX. He recently worked the Vatican, England and Yugoslavia on 20 meter phone. Some of his past QSO's are worth mentioning as he has worked Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA (Uncle Goldwaters' America), King Hussein of Jordan and former Channel 11 weatherman, Johnny Beckman, W4BTX.

Mike joined the club 3 years ago, shortly after Howie became El Presidente. Prior to that he was a member of the Atlanta Radio Club and was very active and committed to ARES, serving as the chief operator in charge of ARES Training and was in charge of the SET (Simulated Emergency Tests). He is a member of some other area clubs but made it a point to stress to me that he was more active in **GARS** and was impressed with the clubs camaraderie and teamwork.

Mike works for Bell Telephone Labs as a member of their technical staff that works with fiber optics. Mike does some traveling, but isn't crazy about it. He said he did enough of that in the Army.

Mike is married to Susan, who recently passed her no code tech license and is KF4PNW. They have 3 children, though they are hardly children now. Two of their sons live in Marietta and their daughter attends West Georgia College.

It was great fun interviewing Mike for this month's Ham of the Month. He's got a great sense of humor, so we had a few good laughs along the way. His biggest concern was that he was afraid that he would

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## ...The President's Pen

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Operations Coordinator will be our speaker at the May meeting. Don Button, AJ1T will also be making a Field Day presentation. If you've got an idea for something you would like to see as a meeting program, or if you would like to make a presentation for the program, get in touch with Johnny.

Speaking of the April meeting, we had another good turnout of members and visitors. I did a head count right after the videotape was shown and counted 70 people there, so with the usual coming and goings of people we had a few more than that. We picked up three new members, which takes us to a total membership of 319. The bylaw changes that were proposed by the executive committee were voted in without opposition, once I finally got the wording right when I called for a vote. You can't imagine my surprise when I thought I'd asked for all those in favor (for those that weren't there, I misspoke and asked for all those opposed to say aye) to say aye and nobody responded. But I got it all straightened out and we got the vote in.

Since that bit of business is done with, you should have all received your invoice for membership renewal. Please take the time to fill out the information that our Membership Chairman Jack Herndon, KS4LS is asking for so that he can update the membership database. I'd also like to call your attention to the part of the renewal that asks if you would like to contribute to the repeater fund. I know that we just raised the dues but like I've said at our last two meetings, if we divide the total budgeted expenses for this year by a membership base of 300 members then each member's share of the expenses totals approximately \$36.00. If you use the **GARS** repeaters on a regular basis, and/or the phone patch, or even if you don't but like knowing that it's there if you need it, please

consider contributing to the repeater fund.

By the time you read this article our two major events for May will already have taken place, the walkathon in Duluth and the Snelville Days parade. We're providing communications for both of these events. Our other usual May activity, the Hog Mountain Century Bike Ride, was cancelled this year by the organizers. We've got two big events coming up in June, the ARC Hamfest security teams and Field Day. Then in July we'll have our annual picnic but then we have nothing at all on the **GARS** calendar for activities so it's time to put our heads together and start planning on some events. If you've got an idea, see me or Activities Manager Marty Fowler, KE4MLH and we'll be glad to get something rolling. We need to keep **GARS** active and on the go.

I think that about does it for this month's article. I look forward to seeing you at the next club meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> and hope to see you before then at our weekly **GARS** Family Breakfast.



### GARS Electronic Mail List



If you have an EMail address and have not yet registered it with the club and wish to do so, please send a message to Suzanne Farr and request to be added to the list.

Send to: [suzannefarr@juno.com](mailto:suzannefarr@juno.com)

## ...GARS Ham Of The Month

(Continued from page 4)

hold the distinction of being the first Ham of the Month whos' interview went to the club members via a post card !! Man that cracked me up, but I assured him that we wouldn't do that to him. Besides, this much on a post card would make for some pretty small print. Anyway, great interview that I truly enjoyed. Mike is quite active in the club so I'm sure you will hear him on the air often.

I look forward to bringing you another action packed HOM article next month. Till then, time for me to say 73 and "throw the big switch".  
CUL.

Karl - N4JON



## AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE REPORTS: FCC DATABASE TEST

For a limited time, hams and others will have real-time access to the FCC's amateur database under a beta-testing program. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has made the three databases available to the public at no charge for approximately 30 days. Among the information available is the amateur application. It allows real-time query capability of the Commissions ham radio database.

The other programs include a frequency search program for 929 and 931 MHZ and the database transaction downloads.

The three applications will be available until May the 12th at: <http://gullfoss.fcc.gov/beta.htm>





## ...ARES SkyWarn

(Continued from page 4)

and not to get in the way of the standard flow of NWS operations. The NWS people really like hams and feel that we benefit them. All operators need to help maintain this relationship. New classes will be conducted in the future and announcements will be made. I would like any Gwinnett Co. ARES/SKYWARN member interested in attending to contact me.

Now on to our happenings. Two dates have been scheduled this year for SKYWARN spotter training. Barry Gooden from the NWS will again be teaching the classes. On **June 3rd** a beginner spotter's class will be taught and on **October 7th** an advanced spotter's class will be conducted. The location for both classes (thanks to Mark, KD3GC) will be at the Central Baptist Church, 250 Gwinnett Dr. SW, Lawrenceville. Get in contact with me if you need more information. Just as a reminder to everyone, the dates of our ARES/SKYWARN nets are as follows:

The 1st, 3rd, and 5th Mondays of the month are simplex nets (146.505 MHz.). The 2nd and 4th Mondays, we meet on the GARS repeater 147.075. These nets are at 9pm local time. Please keep in mind that on May 12th, during the net, we will officially change from our current grid map to the ADC Gwinnett Street Map book's grid map. Be sure to keep this map handy and use it in reporting information to the Net Control Station.

Well enough for this month. Next month, more on creating ARRL radiograms and the National Traffic System.



## IT WAS ALL WORTH IT!

By Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

As a Volunteer Examiner, I get great satisfaction in helping someone demonstrate their knowledge and abilities thereby granting them an Amateur Radio Operators license. Every now and then you get the privilege to give an examination to a person that makes you feel good inside. Recently there was just such a person going for the ultimate class license to have - The 'Extra' (I might be a wee bit biased).

He sat down to take his 20 word per minute code test and was real excited to be there. He cased the joint out to plan his strategy. Okay, Okay, he asked if the test was multiple choice or fill in the blanks. There were three others ready to take the code test too, only not the dreaded 20wpm test as he was. As he placed his copy paper in different orientations, he openly listened to advice to use a pen over a pencil for its lesser rolling resistance.

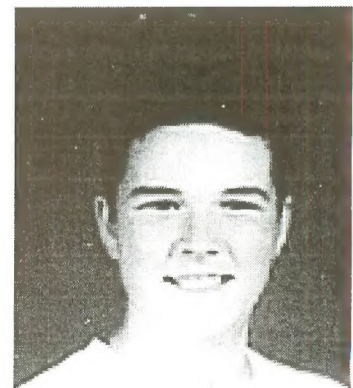
Now came the warm up copy part of the test. He didn't appear to be writing much down. Was it that he was not at all prepared for this or head copy was his expertise or that he just didn't want to wear out his arm on warm up text. The end of the warm up came and he said, "Thank you". I thought that perhaps he thought that the test was over. I looked at the computer screen and the last text sent was, "Good Luck". Hence, his "Thank You".

It was now time for the main event. The computer began to supply the headphones with those musical rhythmic patterns called Morse code at 20 words per minute. *Of course the VE's (Pickett and myself) were head copying it like it was 5 wpm. Yea, Right!* Anyway the young man started to copy. But there was something wrong. His writing was erratic and disorganized. Those who have taken code test knows what it means to get flustered and start

missing the code being sent. It happens! He looked up at me, shook his head and said, "I can't get it". I motioned to him to take a deep breath and relax. Well he did relax and finished copying the rest of the test.

He answered the test questions and submitted them to Pickett, AD4S for grading. Pickett got finished grading the test. Pickett looked up at this young man with a straight face and said, "*I hate to tell you this but.....* **YOU PASSED!**" Well the young man went on to take the written Extra exam passing it quite easily. We now had a new Extra Class Licensed Amateur Radio Operator.

What was so memorable about this person was his attitude. Not just about Amateur Radio, but the exam process, the hard work and dedication to study. He said he liked to study in his free time at school. Imagine that! Studying at school. He was first licensed in May of 1996. And now less than a year later an 'Extra' Congratulations to formally KF4JSC, 14 year old Todd Bowden, soon to be, AF4??.





From the Editor  
Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

## Public Relations It's Everyone's Job

We've got a really active and exciting club. If you read, see and hear about other clubs and their activities, you'll agree that GARS is right up there in top running. Whether it's our new innovative programs or our community involvement.

I had the PR position for a couple of years and tried to get the word out about our club in various forms. And I tried to do it in a way that was promotional to both our fun and active membership and sprit of communicating via Amateur Radio. Of course there was the PR performed by everyone that helped the club grow from under 100 to over 300 in just a couple of years. So lets continue each and everyone of us to speak up the club and participate in the quality growth. But I urge you to provide suggestions and ideas to any of the club officers. And remember the only bad idea is the one not communicated. Right now lets get to

know al little about the current PR Chairman – John Sokol, KE4KPV

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By way of introduction, I am John Sokol, KE4KPV. I live in Lilburn and have been a ham since 1993. I enjoy working with people, which is why I have volunteered for the PR position. I realize that this is a job that cannot, realistically, be done by one person, so I offer the following open invitation to each and every club member. If you know of or can think of an unique way to promote the presence of GARS, let me know. I will be more than happy to work with you in formulating your idea and making it a reality.

I am in the process of obtaining a stock of promotional goodies from ARRL to be used at any of our upcoming sponsored functions, i.e. Field Day, ARC HamFest (if we

have a booth), and any other time a PR table can be set up for public viewing. I am also in the process of formulating a plan to create a videotape of our club and its activities, as suggested by Andy Funk, KB7UV, Station Manager at Television Channel 46/WGNX.

Our President, IKE, KE4GYM will retain our **GARS** WebPages authoring, so we keep in touch with the appropriate updates. I do need however one person to help me keep track of local telephone bulletin board systems to promote the club in those respects as well. So lets all pull together and make **GARS** the best club it can be.

◆◆◆

### Random Ramblings

What's another word for  
Thesaurus?

Steven Wright, comedian

## Look Who's Talkin

Here are a few log entries from different hams who have had recent Radio contacts. This should show the few us with little or no experience that contacts even now at our so called sunspot low are plentiful. Check them out and give a call for CQ on a band, you never know who'll return your, "Seek You".

Compiled by Karl Phillips, N4JON

Date	Local Station	Other Station	Band	Mode
4/24/96	KD4QFD	AA5AE	20	SSB
Comments	Fred answered Larry's call & talked 1hr. Fred was from New Mexico.			
4/24/96	WB4PQQ	W1SIT	20	SSB
Comments	Walters 1 <sup>st</sup> HF mobile contact from Desdin, FL to Salem, NH.			
4/23/96	AJ1T	KA7S	17	SSB
Comments	Don worked Mike from a campground in Fl to Utah on 100 watts and 7foot antenna.			
4/13/96	N4JON	KB9OZA	40	CW
Comments	Karl worked John in Ft. Wayne, IN who was QRP @5watts and a dipole. QSL cards were exchanged			



## Heard Island DXpedition comes to **GARS**

Wow, what a program put on by Bob Allphin, K4UEE at the April meeting. The video he showed said it all. The conditions, surroundings, equipment and people. I think we all can appreciate the hard work and preparation involved with this expedition. Though there's a pretty lonely penguin now.



## HERE WE GROW AGAIN

The following is a list of new members from the April '97 meeting:

NN5C	David Taylor
KB2FYS	Omar Herrera
KC7VY	Rich Snider

Total in **GARS** now at: **319**

## YOU CAN HEAR A TWISTER COMING.....ON THE RADIO !

By Larry Osborne, KD4QFD

Yep, you can hear a tornado coming on the radio. No, this does not involve some "devil may care" ham who is "up close and personal", just feet from the flying debris. Nor does it mean you have to speed ahead of the storm, dropping boxes full of HT's in the storms path.

What you need is a radio capable of receiving HF on particular frequencies and an antenna - but, you are still not listening for other hams - you are listening for the energy generated by the storm itself. Scientists have recently determined that tornadoes generate seismic (earthquake type) waves and low frequency radio waves.

This type of research is valuable as radar sometimes cannot detect tornadic systems due to low hanging clouds, and in our area, North Georgia hills can hide the tornado until its almost on top of you. So, if you can hear it coming before you see it, that gives you more time to alert others and run for cover. Some observers have reported a "freight train" type noise before the twister hits. That is a sound wave, which travels much slower than a radio wave - translated, by the time you hear the freight train noise, you are in deep trouble. Hearing the radio waves gives you more warning time as you may be able to hear them up to 100

miles away.

It appears that the signals put out by a tornado system are in the range of 1 to 100 Hertz, with the "signature" frequencies being below 5 Hertz, and as close to 1 Hertz as you can get.

So, you can hear them, if you have or can make the equipment. Many conventional ham HF radios do not go below 100 Kilohertz, but I am sure you old time builders can come up with a solution. It may be that some scanners can go that low.

After the radio, you need an antenna. Uncle Elmer will do some quick calculations and say, "Hey, you'd need a full wave antenna a couple of miles long!" Well that is true, if you use a full wave antenna - if you have the room, great! Remember, many do not use full wave antennas for any of the ham bands, so if you can get up a piece of wire that is the correct fraction of the full wave, you are in business (plus remember that old Ham law, 'something is better than nothing').

Other storm noises can be heard up to 350 Hertz. It may be an interesting experience to give a listen and see if you can attribute any signals to a storm.

Now, for some common sense. It is not recommended you keep your station equipment hooked up

(Continued on page 9)

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## Interested in joining **GARS**?

Dues are \$30.00 per year for individual memberships and \$35.00 per year for family memberships. Student and senior citizen memberships are available for \$15.00 per year.

For further information contact **GARS** Membership Chairman Jack Herndon at (770)995-0438 or email at xherndon@ix.netcom.com. More information is also available on the **GARS** web page at [www.gars.org](http://www.gars.org).



## April Meeting Minutes

by Bill Ahls, KE4EIH - Secretary

Officers in attendance: President Ike Chapman, KE4GYM; Vice President Larry Osborne, KD4QFD; Secretary Bill Ahls, KE4EIH; and Activities Manager Marty Fowler, KE4MLH.

The meeting was called to order by President Chapman on April 17, 1997, at 19:34 local time at the Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville. Introductions were made by all members and visitors.

No Treasurer report this meeting as the treasurer was not present. The minutes for the March meeting were approved unread. Steve Diggs, W4EPI, presented a third annual \$120 contribution from the EAL group for utilities at the Snellville site. This is a continuing GARS and EAL effort to help packet radio in the Atlanta community. The DX packet cluster is now on at Snellville thanks to Paul Pescitelli, K4UJ. This brings an end to the 1200 baud packet activity with the current system functioning at 1200, 2400, and 9600 baud. The system prompts for login (use your callsign) and password (use your callsign again). The TOTR BBS (921-8687) has detailed instructions. For 1200 baud access the frequency is 145.03 and 145.07 MHz. The 2400 access is now at Paul's house and will be moved to Snellville as time permits which will give wide coverage for this rate.

Announcements: Steve Holland, K4AH, is in Piedmont Hospital for his fourth hip replacement.

Experimental Aircraft Association invites all GARS members to come out to Briscoe Field 24 to 27 April to see the visiting B-17 for a tour. Pancake breakfast is scheduled for the Saturday.

Suzanne Farr reminded all members to get there GARS apparel orders to her. She had examples of the new T-shirts and sweat-shirts.

The program was presented by Bob Allphin, K4UEE, on his Heard Island DX-expedition station VK0IR in January 1997. This was complete with video tape, slides and example souvenirs. The web site "http://users.cnet.com/~cordell/" has more information of interest to all that enjoyed the presentation. Many records were set including 80,673 QSO's in 13 days, and \$320,000 in costs. Twenty-one amateur radio operators gathered here from around the world made this expedition happen with five radio stations and one station was barefoot with the radio ionosphere in the down cycle. An information packet was handed out with much more available at the web site.

GARS needs activity volunteers. Duluth Walk-A-Thon and Snellville Days are both Saturday, May 3. Dacula Memorial Day Parade and Run are Monday, May 26. Lowry Rouse, KM4Z, asked all ARES/Skywarn volunteers to get the ADC eighth edition Gwinnett County map for consistency.

Field Day Chair Mark Kozma asked for Field Day volunteers, for antenna preparation, welcome table, and talk-in. Field Day volunteer jobs are split up into tasks so not to overwhelm any individual. Membership Chair Jack Herndon, KS4LS, presented three applicants for membership in GARS. A motion was made and seconded to accept the applicants as presented and passed without opposition. The new members of GARS are: NN5C, David Taylor; KB2FYS, Omar Herrera; and KC7VY, Rich Snider.

Don Button, AJ1T, as chair for the CW net, needs one more volunteer for the team. An Honorary Lifetime Membership committee is formed per the GARS Bylaws to evaluate a request with Rita Biddle, KE4WVV, Cheryl McClure, AE4HN, Marty Fowler, KE4MLH, Ike Chapman, KE4GYM, and Larry Osborne, KD4QFD as

members. Two more members of GARS are required for the special committee.

The motion to change the individual membership year to be separate from the GARS fiscal year and the dues to change from \$25 to \$30 for the basic individual membership passed as presented previously. The other membership amounts are based on the individual at their current percentages and changed accordingly.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:46 local time by President Chapman.



### ...Hearing the Tornadoes

(Continued from page 8)

during a lightning storm, unless you have a raging desire to turn your equipment and your house to toast and you to a crispy critter. If you do decide to use your ears and radio equipment to go storm chasing, remember basic radio safety.

This information was from an article entitled "Tuning in to Tornadoes" written by Keay Davidson which appears in the April 1997 issue of EARTH Magazine. If you like reading about weather, climate, earthquakes, volcanoes, the oceans and a bunch of similar topics and you want it written so folks without Phd's can understand it, EARTH is your kind of magazine.



### Work GARS

#### REPEATERS

2-Meter 147.075 MHz <sup>+600</sup>  
PL 82.5  
70-cm 444.525 MHz <sup>+5MHz</sup>  
PL 156.7

#### TELEPHONE BBS

GARS Conference in  
Scientific-Atlanta BBS  
(770) 903-6789

#### PACKET

WD4JXR-6 / SNELLV Packet  
Node/Digipeater 145.03 MHz

#### SWAP, WANTED and SELL NET

Tuesdays at 8:00PM on the  
GARS 2m Repeater.

#### MORSE CODE PRACTICE

An interactive Morse Code practice session follows the 8:00PM Tuesday night net on the GARS 2m repeater.

PACKET RADIO USERS NET  
Wednesdays at 8:00 PM on the  
(Temporarily Postponed)



## Tower Ordinance to be Voted On in Gwinnett

**May 20 @ 7PM** at the Justice and Administration Building, comments will be heard from the public regarding the tower ordinance under consideration.

### Proposal:

That tower users may extend up to 70 feet under the guys and restraints subject to those of now 50 feet in height, new and otherwise. Those above 70 feet would be subject to those requirements set forth under commercial users. For example: Fencing and shrubbery requirements among other aesthetic enhancements would be required.

**May 27 @ 7PM** at the Justice and Administration Building

The commissioners will consider the tower ordinance, possibly voting.



## Happy Birthdays within *GARS*

by Jack Herndon, KS4LS

KT4SD	Frank	Madden	May 01
KD4RBI	Jeffry	Cape	May 02
KE4ZYP	Beth	Todd	May 03
KF4OZP	Melissa	Sinyard	May 04
KR4NQ	Randy	Bassett	May 04
KF4NBC	Brian	Frey	May 05
N4ACK	Alan	Hecht	May 05
KF4LSG	Michael	Todd	May 08
KF4LUG	Mathew	Todd	May 08
KC4ZKT	George	May	May 10
KE4OFA	Maurice	Burke	May 10
KF4HLM	Michael	Campbell	May 10
KF4MWI	Brian	Siegmund	May 11
KE4WVV	Rita	Biddle	May 16
N8NYH	T. Michael	McFadden	May 17
KE4GGQ	Kimberley	Romero	May 19
KE4QFX	Charlene	Madden	May 20
WB4GKI	Robin	Huckaby	May 20
KF4KPV	Kelly	Darby	May 21
KD4PCK	David	Mattison	May 21
AD4MI	Charles	Robison	May 22
KD4VHD	Joseph	Coker	May 24
KF4HSJ	Brian	Cummins	May 24
KI4RJ	Clark	Cregger	May 25
KD3GC	Mark	Kozma	May 26
KE4KRS	Michael	Symonette	May 26
W4EPI	Stephen	Diggs	May 26
KF4EVD	Carl	McDaniel	May 27
WW4K	Bob	Langford	May 31

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I-805 at 23rd Ave. ramp

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5075 Lompine Dr.

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(800) 854-8046

Tom, WA6YR, Mgr.

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## Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

### First Tuesday

#### Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers

Old Hickory House, 5490 Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody. Dutch dinner is at 6:30PM, followed by meeting. Talk In -145.410(-)

### First Wednesday

#### HamWatch

Alpha Soda Restaurant, Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM

### First Thursday

#### N.E. Ga ARC

Jefferson Civic Center, off Memorial Dr. toward Winder from Jefferson. Meeting is at 6:30PM. Talk In - 147.225(+)

### Atlanta Radio Club

Georgia Power Federal Credit Union, 4900 Ashford Dunwoody Road, 1 Mile North of Perimeter Mall. Meeting is at 7:30PM Talk In -146.820(-)

### Second Wednesday

#### North Fulton Radio League

Alpharetta Diner Restaurant, Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM Talk In - 145.47(-)

### Second Thursday

#### Alford Memorial Radio Club

Elks Lodge on Memorial Drive. Dinner at 6:00PM Meeting at 7:30PM. Talk In - 146.760(-)

### Second Saturday

#### East Atlanta LAN

Scott Blvd Baptist Church in Decatur. Meeting is at 10:00AM. Talk In - 145.410(-)

### 3rd THURSDAY

#### Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville. Meeting begins at 7:30 in the fellowship hall. Talk In-147.075(+)



Visit **GARS** On The World Wide Web

<http://www.gars.org>

Up to date information on club activities, officers, committees, announcements, **THE GARZETTE** Online, and much more.

Email suggestions for additions to  
gtomlin@mindspring.com or ad4pz@aol.com

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# THE GARZETTE

MAY, 97

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 30226



**GARS meets the third Thursday of each month at Central Baptist Church on Gwinnett Drive in Lawrenceville. The next meeting will be on May 15 at 7:30 P.M.**

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THE GARZETTE

MAY, 97

## Metro Atlanta Test Sessions

**GARS** Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

1st Sunday - 2:00PM - W5YI VEC  
Duane Reynolds, WB2YAD - 638-8512  
Jackson EMC, 461 Swanson Road,  
Lawrenceville

1st Saturday - 9:00AM  
George White, KN4NG 361-6850  
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg.  
7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM  
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759  
Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Rd,  
Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - CA VEC  
Hal Martin, K14RD - 978-9160  
Stone Mountain Methodist Church  
5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - CA VEC  
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171  
Marietta First United Methodist Church  
56 Whitlock Ave, Room 305  
4th Sunday - 2:30PM - ARRL VEC

Steve Schmidt, KR4DL - 242-6142  
Episcopal Church of the Atonement  
Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM ARRL VEC  
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK - 942-6466  
United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA

4th Friday - 7:00PM  
**GARS W5YI-VEC**  
**Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362**  
**St. John Neumann Church**  
**801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks**  
**Trickum Rd, Lilburn**  
**Headphones!**

## Metro Area Nets And Roundtables

Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.47-	8:00PM	North Fulton ARL Net
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Mon	147.075+	9:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Weekly Net
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	GARS CW Practice
Tue	145.47-	10:30PM	Insomniac Net
Wed	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Packet Net
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Wed	146.655-	9:00PM	BSRG Net t-188.8
Thu	146.88-	8:00PM	Kennahoochie ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	Cable57	9:30PM	Amateur Television, ATV
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri	145.47-	8:00PM	NFARL Youth Net
Fri	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sat	3.857	9:00AM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Sat	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.